

TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE 6 Feb 87
TO:		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
REMARKS:		
EXA/DDA <u>                    </u> 6 FEB 1987		
ADDA <u>                    </u> 6 FEB 1987		
DDA <u>                    </u> 6 FEB 1987		
DDA/Registry		
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FROM:		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION

FORM NO.  
1 FEB 56 241REPLACES FORM 36-8  
WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

OIT-056-87

6 FEB 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director

VIA: Deputy Director for Administration

FROM: Edward J. Maloney  
Director of Information Technology

SUBJECT: Wang-Mainframe Connectivity

REFERENCE: Your Note dtd 20 Jan 87

1. We have been in touch with Wang at several levels since their announcements of a few months ago introducing a new "coexistence" philosophy. As you know, this philosophy (which is something of a departure for Wang) involves development of software allowing Wang products to communicate with those of other vendors using industry and international standards. We were especially interested to notice the degree of overlap between the standards Wang had selected and the standards which the Customer Standards Committee and OIT have selected.

2. Of course, using standards means that both parties must adhere to the standards. There remains much work to do both on our systems and on the Wang side, but we're encouraged by the pace and direction of Wang's efforts. I have a technical team visiting WANG Laboratories next week to discuss the specifics of Wang's implementations to ensure that our developments and Wang's future products will 'meet' at our strategic interfaces.

3. Based on what we now know about Wang's plans, the convergence of the word processing and computing worlds will happen in stages. First, we will be able to (from an Alliance workstation) log onto VM and use conventional VM facilities and AIM. Later, we'll be able to (without logging onto VM) mail a document from an Alliance workstation to an AIM workstation (PC). This improved Alliance connectivity is made possible by configuring Alliance networks to include VS computers, which have the required communications interfaces.

4. The first of these capabilities should be possible with systems that exist today, and we are working with Wang to plan a way to demonstrate these capabilities in our environment in the Headquarters Building. The more sophisticated capabilities are still in development, and we do not expect them to be available for more than a year.

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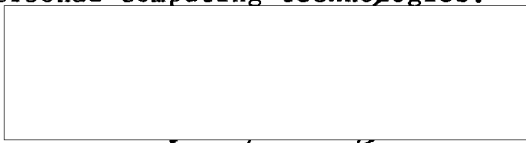
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5. It's important to note, however, that even with improved Wang to IBM linkages, customers using PCs and customers using Alliance terminals will experience differences and incompatibilities. A personnel data base maintained on an Alliance Visual Memory, for example, will not be able to share data with a similar data base maintained on the mainframe. A graph which can be displayed on a PC will not be displayable on an Alliance terminal. A sophisticated report containing multiple character styles and complex formatting may not display identically on an Alliance and a PC. Thus, while it would be possible in a limited way to use the Alliance terminal to access the ALLSTAR upgrade system, Alliance users and PC users would continue to be "different."

6. In short, we're in the process of testbedding some of Wang's claims. At this point we're optimistic that we can, for a relatively small investment, significantly enhance the utility of our installed base of Alliances and begin to merge the word processing and data processing communities. Many challenges remain ahead of us, however, as we manage this merger while concurrently transitioning to new communications and personal computing technologies.

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Edward J. Maloney